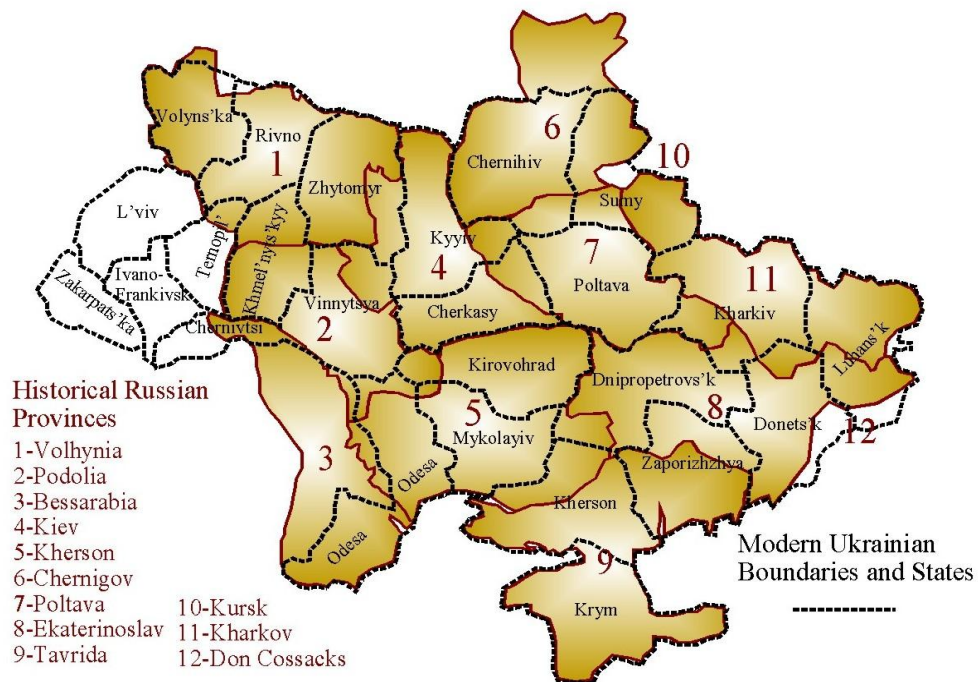


Russian Empire Genealogical Primer

Lithuanian Jurisdictions



Ukrainian Jurisdictions



SOURCES

Jewish Metrical (*metriki*)

In 1835, Russia mandated keeping these records in two copies: one local and one for the government. Beginning in 1857, a state employed Crown rabbi kept the registers with the purpose in mind of improving the completeness of the registration. Left hand pages are in Russian and right hand pages are in Yiddish.

родившихся (of births)

Number (Female, Male) / Who performed the circumcision / Date and month of birth and circumcision (Christian, Jewish) / Where born / Occupation of father, names of father and mother / Who was born and what name was given

Часть I—о родившихся.						
№	Кто совершал	Число и месяц	Где	Состояние отца, имени отца	Кто родился	
рождения	обрядъ образо- ванія.	Христі- анскій.	Еврей- скій.	родился.	и матери.	кто
2	"	13	16	В см. Биржи Овсей-Лейб Куше- лев Шогам, жена Лейб, Поневежскаго общ.	Пасов, дьяк, наставник	Дочь
5	Аронъ Хрѣ- стоженъ, и Мр. обрядъ овра- тъ въ Св. веру	7	10	"	Лавочкинъ, Авраамъ. Зосимъ Мейсеровъ еврей, жена Шогам-Земке, Поневежскаго общ.	Сынъ. Израилъ- Шушанъ,
3	"	15	18	"	Пикеръ, Зосимъ-Беръ Израиловъ Михаилъ Яковлевъ, жена Лавъ, Поневежскаго общ.	Дочь Лавъ-Уме
4	"	20	23	"	Равинъ, Анисья	Дочь

Second
birth /
female

Born 13 Jan /
Sviat (Shevat?) 16

Born in
Birzhi

Circumcision date

Watch Master
Ovsey-Leib Kushelev
Shogam, wife
Libe, Ponevezh
District

Dau.
Rakhel-Ente

бракосочетавшихся (of marriages)

Number / Ages (Female, Male) / Who performed the marriage / Date and month (Christian, Jewish) / Main vows or written obligation between those entering into marriage and witnesses to them / Who namely and with whom entered marriage, and name and occupation of parents

р а з в е д ш и х с я (of divorces)

Number / Ages (Female, Male) / Who performed the divorce and who witnessed it / Date and month (Christian, Jewish) / For what reason / By whom decided / Who namely, and with whom divorced

у м е р ш и х с я (of deaths)

Number (Female, Male) / Who died and was buried / Date and month (Christian, Jewish) / Illness or from which died / Who died

Revision lists/family lists (*revizskie skazski/posemeinye spiski*)

The quickest way to identify families is revision lists, created from 1719-1858 to support a national poll tax. Torture, execution and heavy fines were imposed for tax evasion. It still took several years for the returns to come in. The 2nd revision (1743-1747) began after the ascension of Tsarina Elizabeth. The 4th revision, 1778-1787 was the first conducted by the region fiscal chamber (*kazionnaia palata*), established in 1775 to handle income and expenses of governmental institutions, the collection of taxes, and the conduct of revisions. Revisions 5-10 were conducted during: (5) 1794-1808, (6) 1811-1812, (7) 1815-1825, (8) 1833-1835, (9) 1850-1852, (10) 1857-1859. The last three revisions noted familial changes between revisions. Separate volumes were kept for the different classes of society: merchant (*kupchestvo*), urban citizen (*meshchane*), peasant (*krest'iane*), etc. Jews are listed as urban citizens or separately as Jews. Nobility, clergy, officialdom, army, and higher strata of the urban population were exempt—5 to 10 percent in the 19th century. Family lists and local census records, a source equivalent to the revision lists for the period 1860-1917, were compiled at the direction of local authorities and occur sparsely in archival collections.

1897 census (*perepis 1897*)

The 1897 census was the only universal census in imperial Russia. It was conducted in the middle of the winter because this was the time when the populace was least mobile. The census tabulated information on name, age, sex, relationship, social class, occupation, religion, native tongue, literacy, birthplace, residence, registration site, military status, and disabilities. A copy was filed at the provincial census commission and another forwarded to St. Petersburg. These still exist for some areas: Grodno Province, Kiev Province, Latvia for example. The central copy was destroyed and local copies survive for only a few areas.

Conscription lists (*prizyvnye spiski*)

The government instituted conscription 1874-1918. The drafting of selected groups began earlier but as of January 1, 1874, all 21 year-old males were subject to military service. Conscription occurred each year in October. The term of service varied from 3-5 years. Less than 50 percent of the draftees were inducted

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

During the period of Soviet rule, archives centralized and preserved a vast holding of genealogical sources dating primarily from 1721-1917. Since 1992, the Family History has acquired a substantial collection of these sources on microfilm.

A film print is not always in the collection of the Family History Library and a researcher may need to wait a day or more to receive a copy for viewing. However, the Library catalog is available at <www.familysearch.org> and a researcher can order films prior to visiting. A researcher will need various language reading skills. Russian is the primary language of the records but other languages are Polish, German and Latin. If the researcher identifies locations with the same name, he will need to track down the one in the appropriate jurisdiction.

When it is not in the FHL collection, you must determine in what archive the records are housed. Besides Route to Roots, there are several key archival sites:

Portal <http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

Belarus <http://archives.gov.by/eng/>

Estonia <http://www.eha.ee/english/english.htm>

Latvia <http://www.arhivi.lv/index.php?&110>

Lithuania <http://www.archyvai.lt/archyvai/selectLanguage.do?language=en>

Russia <http://www.rusarchives.ru/>

Ukraine <http://www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/>

When visiting an archive, success depends largely on making prior arrangements so they know your purpose. Even then access may be restricted by the disposition or mood of the archivist. Travel conditions and facilities are usual basic. Lack of language skill may well necessitate employing a local guide/interpreter.

Russian genealogical records are filed by record group (*fond*); the records of a specific organization, portion of an organization, or individual. Archives also create collections in which records of different organizations or individuals are filed together on a thematic basis. Thus, vital records of different religions can be filed together. A single volume, file, or even a single sheet of paper is an item (*delo*). Each item is given a title based upon the record type and contents. Items are usually filed chronologically by the earliest year of information found in that item. An inventory (*opis*) is a list of items in a record group or collection. The inventory identifies the title assigned to each item, the sequential number, and information on inclusive dates and number of pages. There may be multiple inventories for a record group, reflecting different types of material or different accessions of records for the same institution. As a result, each item is defined by three numbers: *fond*, *opis*, and *delo*. Later insertions are given an alpha designation after the number such as 21a, 21b, etc.